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(54) Flow control of frame based data over a synchronous digital network

(57) A transmission apparatus and a method for operating the apparatus comprises means for controlling flow of frame based data transmitted from a local frame based data channel interface over a synchronous digital network. The method of operation comprises the transmitter receiving frame based data at a first rate whereafter a buffer is configured to receive the frame based data. A data amount threshold level for the buffer is pre-determined whereafter, with respect to the threshold level, an amount of transmitted frame based data that has been received is monitored. In response to monitoring the amount of data received, a signal, in the form of a pause frame, is generated wherein the signal is configurable to adapt the rate of transmission from the frame based data channel interface. Working in conjunction with the transmission means there is also provided a receiver for controlling flow of frame based data, received from a synchronous digital network, to a frame based data channel interface. The receiver is configured to receive the frame based data at a first rate whereafter a buffer is configured to receive the frame based data. Upon pre-determining a data amount threshold level for the buffer an amount of frame based data received is monitored with respect to the threshold level. In response to monitoring the amount of data received, a signal is generated in the form of a pause frame, wherein the pause

frame signal is configurable to adapt the first transmission rate of the frame based data over the synchronous digital network to a second rate. In this way, the rate of transmission from a local Ethernet switch may be controlled and the rate of receipt of Ethernet based frame data from a synchronous digital network may be controlled. In the latter case pause frames may be incorporated into one or more synchronous digital hierarchy virtual containers.

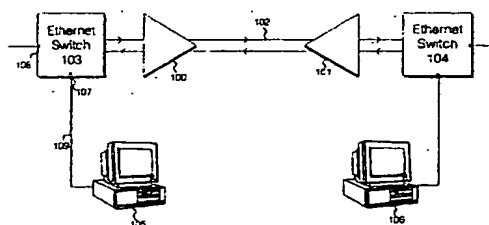


Fig. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Y	* column 1, line 15 - line 26; figures 1,2,7 *	2-15, 17-29, 31-44, 46-60, 62-72, 74-84	H04L12/56 H04J3/16
	* column 1, line 56 - line 59 *		
	* column 2, line 13 - line 17 *		
	* column 2, line 53 - line 65 *		
	* column 3, line 41 - line 67 *		
	* column 4, line 62 - line 64 *		
	* column 5, line 26 - line 33 *		
	* column 6, line 4 - line 21 *		
	* column 7, line 13 - line 19 *		
	* column 13, line 35 - column 14, line 31 *		
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	* column 6, line 30 - line 38 *		
	* column 7, line 31 - line 38 *		
	* column 8, line 36 - line 37 *		
	* column 9, line 48 - column 10, line 48 *		
	* column 13, line 42 - column 14, line 31 *		
	* claims 11,12 *		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 December 2001	Examiner Meurisse, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document	

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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 December 2001	Examiner Neurisse, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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